Remarks

The Office Action mailed November 19, 2003 and made final has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendments have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-44 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-11, 15, 19, 23-24, 31-32, 36-37, and 39 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-44 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-17, 19-34 and 36-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by May (U.S. Patent 6,317,727) is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that May does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. As discussed below, at least one of the differences between May and the present invention is that May neither describes nor suggests a method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against the bank credit lines that includes requesting a first bank to establish a line of credit for a borrower, accessing a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding the established line of credit including the credit ratings of the first bank, a total credit line, an amount drawn on the established line of credit, an interest rate on the established line of credit, and commitment fees associated with the established line of credit, automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of the amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit, and monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the first bank.

Additionally, at least another of the differences between May and the present invention that will be discussed below is that May neither describes nor suggests a method that includes calculating an eligibility factor for a borrower based on information stored in the database wherein the eligibility factor indicates at least one of a likelihood that a first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower.

Moreover, as discussed below, at least one other difference between May and the present invention is that May neither describes nor suggests a method that includes posting journal entries to a general ledger of a borrower including borrowings against an established line of credit, repayments made toward the established line of credit, and commitment fees paid for the established line of credit for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

May describes a credit monitoring system that forms a complex check to determine if two particular counterparties, namely a buyer and a seller of a trade instrument, will accept each other for a particular trade based upon their respective predefined credit preferences (column 5, lines 49-53). Credit preferences imputed by each counterparty with regard to the other counterparty are referenced to determine the trade eligibility of either party with respect to the other for a particular financial transaction instrument (column 5, lines 53-58). Indication of whether a counterparty can enter into the proposed trade is conveyed to the respective trader, preferably using a color coding scheme in which various colors represent the relevant credit status with regard to the viewing trader (column 5, lines 58-62). The complex check performed by the system may be embodied in a simple yes/no statement, in terms of maturity of a particular financial instrument, or in terms of a risk quotient (i.e., risk equivalent or RQ) initially determined by the system, though modifiable by the trader (column 5, lines 62-67). Accordingly, financial institutions which trade complex financial instruments such as derivatives which create obligations which extend into the future may monitor their credit risk by the bilateral credit screening of the system (column 5, line 67-column 6, line 4). A credit group is a grouping of classes, such as a foreign exchange swap, of financial contracts that a business unit wishes to be treated in a like manner for credit purposes (column 23, lines 49-52, column 18, lines 12-27).

Claim 1 recites a method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against the bank credit lines using a Credit Line System coupled to a centralized database, wherein the bank credit lines are established between a borrower and at least one bank, wherein the method includes "tracking credit ratings of a first bank...requesting the first bank to establish a line of credit for the borrower...accessing a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding the established line of credit including the credit ratings of the first

bank, a total credit line, an amount drawn on the established line of credit, an interest rate on the established line of credit, and commitment fees associated with the established line of credit...automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of the amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit...monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the first bank...calculating an eligibility factor for the borrower based on information stored in the database, the eligibility factor indicating at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower...posting journal entries to a general ledger of the borrower including borrowings against the established line of credit, repayments made toward the established line of credit, and commitment fees paid for the established line of credit for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes."

May does not describe or suggest the method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against the bank credit lines as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, May does not describe or suggest a method that includes accessing a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding an established line of credit including the credit ratings of a bank, a total credit line, an amount drawn on the established line of credit, an interest rate on the established line of credit, and commitment fees associated with the established line of credit. Moreover, May does not describe or suggest automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of the amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit, and monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank. Rather, although May implies that credit is extended from a seller of financial instruments to a buyer of the financial instruments which is later settled when the buyer reimburses the seller (col. 23, lines 12-26), May does not describe or teach requesting a bank to establish a line of credit for a borrower as recited in Claim 1.

Further, May does not describe or teach accessing a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding the established line of credit including the credit ratings of a bank, a total credit line, an amount drawn on the established line of credit, an interest rate on the established line of credit, and commitment fees associated with the established line of credit. Rather, the central processing center described in May at col. 12, lines 3-10 and col. 12, line 63 to col. 13, line 5 maintains information such as current state information for each trader workstation, user and business unit data, financial instrument definitions, order states, transaction states, confirmation states, historical confirmation and transaction data, credit preferences of all business units, and historical market data. Accordingly, May does not describe or teach obtaining and maintaining information regarding an established line of credit as recited in Claim 1.

Furthermore, May does not describe or teach automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a bank to facilitate repayment by a borrower of an amount drawn on an established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit. Rather, the settlement module described in May at col. 12, lines 14-16 calculates an appropriate commission, generates a confirmation of the trade, and sends the confirmation to the buyer and seller of the financial instruments. May does not teach automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of the amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit as recited in Claim 1.

Additionally, the Office Action suggests at page 4 that May at col. 11, line 64 to col. 13, line 5 describes the step of monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank. Applicants respectfully traverse this suggestion. In fact, May at col. 11, line 64 to col. 13, line 5 does not describe, teach or even mention monitoring an established line of credit based on the credit ratings of a bank. Rather, May describes a mechanism which monitors the connection of each trader workstation, caches market information being viewed at each trader workstation, and caches the credit preference information of all users for delivery to each trader workstation (see col. 12, lines 23-34). In other words, the credit

preferences of each prospective trader, as inputted by that trader, are stored in a central processing center and viewed by other prospective traders who access the system.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that May neither describes nor suggests the method that includes calculating an eligibility factor for a borrower wherein the eligibility factor indicates at least one of a likelihood that a first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower. Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system used to determine if two counterparties, namely a buyer and a seller of a financial instrument, will accept each other on a particular trade.

Moreover, the Office Action suggests at page 4 that May at col. 12, lines 17-34 and col. 12, line 61 to col. 13, line 5 and col. 26, lines 18-42 describes "monitoring borrowings against the established line of credit and posting journal entries to a general ledger for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing." Applicants respectfully traverse this suggestion. In fact, May at col. 12 lines 17-34 describes in part "a group server mechanism that monitors the connection of each trader workstation so that log-in and log-out times and usage can be monitored...The group server mechanism also caches market information being viewed at each trader workstation and creates an order identification code that uniquely identifies that order...The credit preference information of all users is cached in by the group server mechanism for delivery to each trader workstations when the associated user logs in." Additionally, May at col. 12, line 61 to col.13, line 5 describes "a relational database that resides on the hard disk for maintaining information such as current state information for each trader workstation, user and business unit data, financial instrument definitions, order states, transaction states, confirmation states, historical confirmation and transaction data, credit preferences of all business units, and historical market data." Further, May at col. 26, lines 18-42 describes in part "a user's business unit is responsible for monitoring the credit exposure of the business unit with respect to all legal entity counterparties, and for adjusting the credit preferences in the system accordingly." Applicants respectfully submit that May neither describes nor suggests posting journal entries to a general ledger of a borrower including borrowings against an established line of credit, repayments made toward the established line of credit, and commitment fees paid for the established line of credit for

financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over May.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3 and 5-8 depend from independent Claim 1 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 2-3 and 5-8 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-3 and 5-8 are also patentable over May.

Claim 9 recites a method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against the bank credit lines using a Credit Line System coupled to a centralized database, wherein the bank credit lines are established between a borrower and at least one bank, and wherein the method includes "automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of an amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit...processing information utilizing a credit line module, a borrowing module to maintain borrowings from the bank, and a journal entry module...monitoring the line of credit established with the first bank based on credit ratings of the first bank...calculating an eligibility factor for the borrower, the eligibility factor indicating at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower...creating journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit, repayments toward the established line of credit, and commitment fees paid for the established line of credit...posting the journal entries to a general ledger of the borrower to record transactions-for facilitating preparations of financial statements."

May neither describes nor suggests the method as recited in Claim 9. More specifically, May does not describe or suggest a method that includes automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of an amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established

line of credit, and processing information utilizing a credit line module, a borrowing module to maintain borrowings from the bank, and a journal entry module.

Furthermore, May does not describe or suggest monitoring the line of credit established with the first bank based on credit ratings of the first bank, calculating an eligibility factor for the borrower wherein the eligibility factor indicates at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower, creating journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit, repayments toward the established line of credit, and commitment fees paid for the established line of credit, and posting the journal entries to a general ledger of the borrower to record transactions-for facilitating preparations of financial statements.

Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system used to determine if a buyer and a seller of a trade instrument will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument, which is further distinguished below.

As stated above, May does not describe or teach automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of an amount drawn on an established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit. Rather, the settlement module described in May at col. 12, lines 14-16 calculates an appropriate commission, generates a confirmation of the trade, and sends the confirmation to the buyer and seller of the financial instruments.

Moreover, the Office Action suggests at page 6 that May at col. 11, line 64 to col. 13, line 5 describes the step of monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank. Applicants respectfully traverse this suggestion. In fact, May at col. 11, line 64 to col. 13, line 5 does not describe, teach or even mention monitoring an established line of credit based on the credit ratings of a bank. Rather, May describes a mechanism which monitors the connection of each trader workstation, caches market information being viewed at each trader workstation, and caches the credit preference information of all users for delivery to each trader workstation (col. 12, lines 23-34). In other words, the credit

preferences of each prospective trader, as inputted by that trader, is stored in a central processing center and viewed by other prospective traders who access the system.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that May neither describes nor suggests calculating an eligibility factor for a borrower wherein the eligibility factor indicates at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower. Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system used to determine if two counterparties, namely a buyer and a seller of a financial instrument, will accept each other on a particular trade. May does not describe or suggest calculating an eligibility factor for a borrower.

The Office Action also suggests at page 6 that May describes "creating journal entries and monitoring borrowings against the established line of credit" and "posting the journal entries to record transactions on a general ledger for facilitating preparations of financial statements." Applicants respectfully traverse this suggestion. Rather, May describes "a group server mechanism that monitors the connection of each trader workstation so that log-in and log-out times and usage can be monitored...The group server mechanism also caches market information being viewed at each trader workstation and creates an order identification code that uniquely identifies that order...The credit preference information of all users is cached in by the group server mechanism for delivery to each trader workstations when the associated user logs in" (col. 12, lines 17-34); "a relational database that resides on the hard disk for maintaining information such as current state information for each trader workstation, user and business unit data, financial instrument definitions, order states, transaction states, confirmation states, historical confirmation and transaction data, credit preferences of all business units, and historical market data" (col. 12, line 61 to col.13, line 5); and "a user's business unit is responsible for monitoring the credit exposure of the business unit with respect to all legal entity counterparties, and for adjusting the credit preferences in the system accordingly" (col. 26, lines 18-42). May does not describe or suggest creating journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit, repayments toward the established line of credit, and commitment fees paid for the established line of credit, and posting the journal entries to a general ledger of the borrower to

record transactions-for facilitating preparations of financial statements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 9 is patentable over May.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 9 be withdrawn.

Claims 10-13 depend from independent Claim 9 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 10-13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 9, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 10-13 are also patentable over May.

Claim 15 recites a system for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against the bank credit lines using a Credit Line System, wherein the bank credit lines are established between a borrower and at least one bank, and wherein the system includes "a server system, a client system configured with a browser, and a centralized database coupled to said server system, said server system connected to said client system...said server system configured to track credit ratings of a first bank...access the centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding a line of credit established between the borrower and the first bank including the credit ratings of the first bank, a total credit line, an amount drawn on the established line of credit, an interest rate on the established credit line, and commitment fees associated with the established line of credit...automatically transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of the amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit...monitor the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the first bank...calculate an eligibility factor for the borrower based on information stored in the database, the eligibility factor indicating at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower...post journal entries to a general ledger of the borrower including borrowings against the established line of credit, repayments made toward the established line of credit, and commitment fees paid for the established line of credit for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes."

May neither describes nor suggests a system for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against the bank credit lines as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, May neither describes nor suggests a server system configured to access a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding a line of credit established between the borrower and the bank including the credit ratings of the first bank, a total credit line, an amount drawn on the established line of credit, an interest rate on the established credit line, and commitment fees associated with the established line of credit. Furthermore, May neither describes nor suggests a server system configured to automatically transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of the amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit, and to monitor the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the first bank.

Although May mentions at col. 12, lines 3-10 and col. 12, line 63 to col. 13, line 5 a central processing center that maintains information such as current state information for each trader workstation, user and business unit data, financial instrument definitions, order states, transaction states, confirmation states, historical confirmation and transaction data, credit preferences of all business units, and historical market data, May does not describe or teach a server system configured to access a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding a line of credit established between the borrower and the first bank including the credit ratings of the first bank, a total credit line, an amount drawn on the established line of credit, an interest rate on the established credit line, and commitment fees associated with the established line of credit.

Furthermore, May does not describe or teach a server system configured to automatically transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of the amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit. Rather, the settlement module described in May calculates an appropriate commission, generates a confirmation of the trade, and sends the confirmation to the buyer and seller of the financial instruments.

Additionally, the Office Action suggests at page 8 that May at col. 11, line 64 to col. 13, line 5 describes a server system configured to monitor the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank. Applicants respectfully traverse this suggestion. In fact, May does not describe, teach or even mention monitoring an established line of credit based on the credit ratings of a bank. Rather, May describes a mechanism which monitors the connection of each trader workstation, caches market information being viewed at each trader workstation, and caches the credit preference information of all users for delivery to each trader workstation (col. 12, lines 23-34). In other words, the credit preferences of each prospective trader, as inputted by that trader, is stored in a central processing center and viewed by other prospective traders who access the system.

Furthermore, May neither describes nor suggests a server system configured to calculate an eligibility factor for the borrower based on information stored in the database, the eligibility factor indicating at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower.

Moreover, the Office Action suggests at page 8 that May describes "monitoring borrowings against the established line of credit and posting journal entries to a general ledger for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing." Applicants respectfully traverse this suggestion. Rather, May describes "a group server mechanism that monitors the connection of each trader workstation so that log-in and log-out times and usage can be monitored" (col. 12, lines 17-34); "a relational database that resides on the hard disk for maintaining information such as current state information for each trader workstation, user and business unit data, financial instrument definitions, order states, transaction states, confirmation states, historical confirmation and transaction data, credit preferences of all business units, and historical market data" (col. 12, line 61 to col.13, line 5); and "a user's business unit is responsible for monitoring the credit exposure of the business unit with respect to all legal entity counterparties, and for adjusting the credit preferences in the system accordingly" (col. 26, lines 18-42). Applicants therefore submit that May neither describes nor suggests a server system configured to post journal entries to a general ledger of the borrower including borrowings against the established line of credit, repayments made toward the established

line of credit, and commitment fees paid for the established line of credit for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 is patentable over May.

For at least the reasons set forth here, and above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over May.

Claims 16-17 and 19-22 depend from independent Claim 15 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 16-17 and 19-22 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 16-17 and 19-22 are also patentable over May.

Claim 23 recites a system for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against the bank credit lines using a Credit Line System, wherein the bank credit lines are established between a borrower and at least one bank, the system includes a server system, a client system configured with a browser, and a centralized database coupled to the server system, the server system is configured to "automatically transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of an amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit...monitor the line of credit established with the first bank based on the credit ratings of the first bank...calculate an eligibility factor for the borrower based on information stored in the centralized database, the eligibility factor indicating at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower...and process information contained in the centralized database utilizing modules comprised of...a credit line module to maintain credit lines, a borrowing module to maintain borrowings from the bank, and a journal entry module, said journal entry module integrated with the credit line module and the borrowing module to process information to create journal entries including journal entries reflecting borrowings against the established line of credit, repayments made toward the established line of credit, and commitment fees paid for the established line of credit, and post the journal entries to a general ledger of the borrower for facilitating preparations of financial statements."

May neither describes nor suggests a server system configured to automatically transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of an amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit, and to monitor the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the first bank.

Furthermore, May neither describes nor suggests a server system configured to calculate an eligibility factor for the borrower based on information stored in the centralized database wherein the eligibility factor indicates at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower.

Moreover, May neither describes nor suggests a server system configured to process information contained in the centralized database utilizing modules comprised of a credit line module to maintain credit lines, a borrowing module to maintain borrowings from the bank, and a journal entry module, wherein the journal entry module is integrated with the credit line module and the borrowing module to process information to create journal entries including journal entries reflecting borrowings against the established line of credit, repayments made toward the established line of credit, and commitment fees paid for the established line of credit, and to post the journal entries to a general ledger of the borrower for facilitating preparations of financial statements.

Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system used to determine if two counterparties, namely a buyer and a seller of a financial instrument, will accept each other on a particular trade. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 23 is patentable over May.

For at least the reasons set forth here and above, Claim 23 is submitted to be patentable over May.

Claims 24-30 depend from independent Claim 23 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 24-30 are considered in combination

with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 24-30 are also patentable over May.

Claim 31 recites a computer program for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against the bank credit lines using a Credit Line System, the Credit Line System which includes a server system, a client system configured with a browser, and a centralized database coupled to the server system, the server system is connected to the client system, the computer program includes "a code segment to automatically transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of an amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit...a code segment to process information contained in the centralized database utilizing a credit line module to maintain credit lines...a code segment to maintain borrowings against a credit line with the bank utilizing a borrowing module...a code segment to monitor the line of credit established with the first bank based on the credit ratings of the first bank...a code segment to calculate an eligibility factor for the borrower based on information stored in the database, the eligibility factor indicating at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower...and a code segment to process journal entries including journal entries reflecting borrowings against the credit line, repayments made toward the established line of credit, and commitment fees paid for the credit line by utilizing a journal entry module, the journal entry module integrated with the credit line module and the borrowing module to process information to create borrowing journal entries and post the borrowing journal entries to a general ledger of the borrower for facilitating preparations of financial statements."

May neither describes nor suggests a computer program as recited in Claim 31. More specifically, May neither describes nor suggests a computer program that includes a code segment to automatically transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of an amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit.

Furthermore, May neither describes nor suggests a computer program that includes a code segment to calculate an eligibility factor for the borrower based on information stored in the database wherein the eligibility factor indicates at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that May neither describes nor teaches a computer program that includes a code segment to process journal entries including journal entries reflecting borrowings against the credit line, repayments made toward the established line of credit, and commitment fees paid for the credit line by utilizing a journal entry module, wherein the journal entry module is integrated with the credit line module and the borrowing module to process information to create borrowing journal entries and post the borrowing journal entries to a general ledger of the borrower for facilitating preparations of financial statements.

Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system used to determine if two counterparties, namely a buyer and a seller of a financial instrument, will accept each other on a particular trade. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 31 is patentable over May.

For at least the reasons set forth here and above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 31 is patentable over May.

Claim 32 recites a computer program for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against the bank credit lines using a Credit Line System, the computer program includes "a code segment that tracks credit ratings of a first bank...a code segment that accesses a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding a line of credit established with the bank for the borrower including credit ratings of the first bank, a total credit line, an amount drawn on the established line of credit, a borrowing history, a repayment history, an interest rate on the established credit line, and commitment fees associated with the established line of credit...a code segment that automatically transmits domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of the amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely

payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit...a code segment that monitors the established line of credit with the first bank based on credit ratings of the first bank...a code segment that calculates an eligibility factor for the borrower based on information stored in the database, the eligibility factor indicating at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower...and a code segment that posts borrowing journal entries including journal entries reflecting borrowings against the credit line, repayments made toward the established line of credit and commitment fees paid for the credit line to a general ledger of the borrower for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes."

May neither describes nor suggests a computer program as recited in Claim 32. More specifically, May neither describes nor suggests a computer program that includes a code segment that accesses a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding a line of credit established with the bank for the borrower including credit ratings of the first bank, a total credit line, an amount drawn on the established line of credit, a borrowing history, a repayment history, an interest rate on the established credit line, and commitment fees associated with the established line of credit.

Furthermore, May does not describe or suggest a computer program that includes a code segment that automatically transmits domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of an amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit, and a code segment that monitors the line of credit established with the first bank based on the credit ratings of the first bank.

Moreover, May neither describes nor suggests a computer program that includes a code segment that calculates an eligibility factor for the borrower based on information stored in the database wherein the eligibility factor indicates at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that May neither describes nor teaches a computer program that includes a code segment that posts borrowing journal entries including journal entries reflecting borrowings against the credit line, repayments made toward the established line of credit and commitment fees paid for the credit line to a general ledger of the borrower for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system used to determine if two counterparties, namely a buyer and a seller of a financial instrument, will accept each other on a particular trade. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 32 is patentable over May.

For at least the reasons set forth here and above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 32 is patentable over May.

Claims 33-34, 36-38, and 43-44 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 32 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 33-34, 36-38, and 43-44 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 32, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 33-34, 36-38, and 43-44 are also patentable over May.

Applicants further submit that the Section 103 rejection of the presently pending claims is not a proper rejection. As is well established, the mere assertion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified May to obtain the claimed recitations of the present invention does not support a prima facie obvious rejection. Rather, each allegation of what would have been an obvious matter of design choice must always be supported by citation to some reference work recognized as standard in the pertinent art and the Applicants given the opportunity to challenge the correctness of the assertion or the notoriety or repute of the cited reference. In contrast to the assertion within the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to have modify May because the Examiner has not pointed to any prior art that teaches or suggests to modify May to obtain the claimed invention.

Applicants also submit that May is non-analogous art that is not relevant to the present patent application. May describes a credit monitoring system that forms a complex check to determine if two particular counterparties, namely a buyer and a seller of a trade instrument, will accept each other for a particular trade of complex financial instruments based upon their respective predefined credit preferences. Accordingly, the counterparties which trade the complex financial instruments such as derivatives which create obligations which extend into the future may monitor their credit risk by the bilateral credit screening of the system. As such, May describes a system utilized in a buyer-seller transaction. Although May discusses credit being extended by the seller to facilitate the trade (see col. 23, lines 4-26), May does not address issues related to the line of credit extended by a bank in the borrower-lender relationship as described in the present invention. Given the obvious differences between a seller extending credit whereby the counterparties exchange currencies and the transaction is settled in only a few days, and a lender establishing a line of credit, and the fact that the credit monitoring system as described by May neither recognizes nor solves any problems addressed by the present invention, it is respectfully submitted that May is non-analogous art that would not be looked to for potential solutions in monitoring credit lines and tracking borrowings between a lender and a borrower. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-17, 19-34 and 36-44 be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-17, 19-34 and 36-44 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 4, 18, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over May in view of Hilt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,465,206) ("Hilt") is respectfully traversed.

May is described above. Hilt describes a bill pay system in which participating consumers pay bills to participating billers using a bill payment network where billers are universally identified and for which all participants agree to a set of protocols (col. 10, lines 37-42). The protocols include data exchange and messaging protocols as well as operating regulations which bind and direct the activities of the participants (col. 10, lines 42-44). The participating consumers receive bills from participating billers which indicate an amount, and a unique biller reference number ("BRN") identifying the biller to the payment network (col.

10, lines 44-49). To authorize a remittance, the consumer transmits to its bank a transaction indicating (1) an amount to pay, (2) the source of the funds, (3) a date on which to make the payment, (4) consumer C's account number with biller B, and (5) biller B's BRN (col. 10, lines 49-54). When Bank C receives the bill payment order from consumer C, Bank C then submits an electronic transaction, a payment message, into a payment network directed to Bank B (biller's bank), which is determined from the BRN of the transaction (col. 10, lines 63-67). For settlement, bank C debits the account designated by consumer C as the source of funds for that payment and is obligated to a net position with the payment network; likewise, bank B receives a net position from the payment network and credits biller B's bank account (col. 11, lines 10-14). Bank B's net position is equal and opposite to Bank C's net position except for a small processing fee, which is collected by the payment network from the transfer to finance the costs of operating the payment network (col. 11, lines 14-18).

Claim 4 depends from independent Claim 1. Claim 1 is recited hereinabove.

Neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the method recited in Claim 1. More specifically, neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method that includes accessing a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding the established line of credit for the borrower including a total credit line, an amount drawn on the established line of credit, a borrowing history, a repayment history, an interest rate on the established credit line, and commitment fees associated with the established line of credit.

Moreover, neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of the amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit, and monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the first bank.

Furthermore, neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest calculating an eligibility factor for the borrower based on information stored in the centralized database wherein the eligibility factor indicates at least one of a likelihood that the

first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower, and posting journal entries to a general ledger of the borrower including journal entries reflecting borrowings against the established line of credit and commitment fees paid for the established line of credit for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument; and Hilt describes a method in which participating consumers pay bills to participating billers using a bill payment network where billers are universally identified and for which all participants agree to a set of protocols. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

When the recitations of Claim 4 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 4 likewise is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

Claim 18 depends from Claim 15. Claim 15 is recited hereinabove.

Neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the system recited in Claim 15. More specifically, neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a system for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against the bank credit lines that includes a server system configured to access a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding a line of credit established between the borrower and the first bank including the credit ratings of the first bank, a total credit line, an amount drawn on the established line of credit, an interest rate on the established credit line, and commitment fees associated with the established line of credit.

Moreover, neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a server system configured to automatically transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of the amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the

borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit, and monitor the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the first bank.

Furthermore, neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a server system configured to calculate an eligibility factor for the borrower based on information stored in the database wherein the eligibility factor indicates at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower, and post journal entries to a general ledger of the borrower including borrowings against the established line of credit, repayments made toward the established line of credit, and commitment fees paid for the established line of credit for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument; and Hilt describes a method in which participating consumers pay bills to participating billers using a bill payment network where billers are universally identified and for which all participants agree to a set of protocols. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

When the recitations of Claim 18 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 18 likewise is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

Claim 35 depends from independent Claim 32. Claim 32 is recited hereinabove.

Neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the computer program recited in Claim 32. More specifically, neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer program for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against the bank credit lines that includes a code segment that accesses a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding a line of credit established with the bank for the borrower including credit ratings of the first bank, a total credit line, an amount drawn on the established line of credit, a borrowing history, a repayment history, an

interest rate on the established credit line, and commitment fees associated with the established line of credit

Moreover, neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer program that includes a code segment that automatically transmits domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a first bank to facilitate repayment by the borrower of the amount drawn on the established line of credit and to ensure timely payment by the borrower of commitment fees associated with the established line of credit, and a code segment that monitors the established line of credit with the first bank based on credit ratings of the first bank.

Furthermore, neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer program that includes a code segment to calculate an eligibility factor for the borrower based on information stored in the database wherein the eligibility factor indicates at least one of a likelihood that the first bank would increase the established line of credit with the borrower and a likelihood that a second bank would establish a new line of credit with the borrower, and a code segment that posts borrowing journal entries including journal entries reflecting borrowings against the credit line, repayments made toward the established line of credit and commitment fees paid for the credit line to a general ledger of the borrower for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument; and Hilt describes a method in which participating consumers pay bills to participating billers using a bill payment network where billers are universally identified and for which all participants agree to a set of protocols. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 32 is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

When the recitations of Claim 35 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 32, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 35 likewise is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

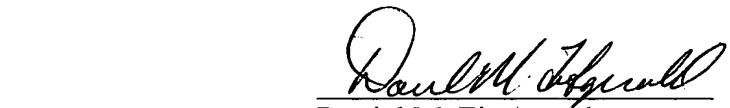
Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 4, 18, and 35 is not a proper rejection. Obviousness cannot be established by merely suggesting that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify May using the teachings of Hilt. More specifically, as is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. It is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or "template" to piece together the teachings of the prior art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. Specifically, one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention. Further, it is impermissible to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the combination claimed in Claims 4, 18, and 35. Rather, the present Section 103 rejections appear to be based on a combination of teachings selected from multiple patents in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention. Specifically, May teaches a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument; and Hilt teaches a method in which participating consumers pay bills to participating billers using a bill payment network where billers are universally identified and for which all participants agree to a set of protocols. However, there is no motivation or suggestion to combine May with Hilt. Since there is no teaching nor suggestion for the combinations, the Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a hindsight reconstruction in which isolated disclosures have been picked and chosen in an attempt to deprecate the present invention. Of course, such combinations are impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicants request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 4, 18, and 35 be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons set forth here and above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 4, 18, and 35 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the Claims now active in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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